

BRISTOL WARREN REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE
SPECIAL MEETING
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2008

A special meeting of the Bristol Warren Regional School Committee was held on Monday, September 29, 2008, in the Oliver Administration Building, 151 State Street, Bristol, RI. William A. Estrella, Jr, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at approximately 7:32 PM.

Present: William A. Estrella, Jr., Paul Silva, William M. O'Dell, Paul Brule, David L. Dugan, Karen A. Lynch and John P. Saviano; Edward P. Mara, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools; Melinda L. Thies, Assistant Superintendent for Secondary Curriculum, Assessment and Instruction; Jane F. Correia, Director of Administration and Finance; and Andrew D. Henneous, District Solicitor

Absent: Diana B. Campbell and Marjorie J. McBride

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation #S2008-63: That the School Committee, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of the architect for general architectural services. (Tabled at the

September 22, 2008 Meeting)

MOTION: Mr. Silva motioned to approve the appointment of Prout, Robert and Elias; Mr. Brule seconded. The motion to approve passed unanimously. Mr. Saviano asked Dr. Mara's level of satisfaction with Prout; Dr. Mara is quite satisfied; Mr. Estrella added the Hugh Cole Project was on time and on budget—a good recommendation.

CHAIRPERSON'S INITIATIVES

Decommissioning Dates for Main Street, Byfield and Reynolds Schools

Mr. Estrella asked the Superintendent to delay the decommissioning dates of Byfield and Reynolds on September 30, 2008 and Main Street on July 31, 2008.

Comments:

- Mr. Estrella: Does not want to bind the next Committee; it is their decision; will not be accused of setting the course of the new Committee; students have not been in the buildings for over thirty (30) days; the buildings will not be sold immediately; trying to present another opportunity; changing the enabling legislation takes one to two years.**
- Mr. Saviano: Agreeable to locking in only one school; Bristol has commissioned a task force; we must be fiscally responsible; we are**

heading for a depression and Joint Finance will ask us to cut by millions; we have room for a full track in Warren and it would be fiscally irresponsible not to bus Bristol students to Warren; we need to act as one district; it will cost \$37,000 to heat the three buildings to 50 degrees.

- **Mr. Silva:** Does not want to take any action since a vote was taken a year ago; it takes a motion to reconsider, but according to Roberts Rules, we are beyond that; we need to make a written request to the Town to retain control of one building for a short period of time; if we do nothing, we are not changing our situation; Mrs. Lynch had requested discussion a week ago and it now is a dire need;

- **Mrs. Lynch:** A sensitive issue to her; since the Committee chose to ignore her plea to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to leave Reynolds open, the matter should be left to rest; perhaps we should move up the task force timeline.

- **Mr. O'Dell:** The decision to close the schools was a 5 to 4 vote, based on the evidence at hand; has concerns about the near future of the District with new evidence of increased numbers returning from private schools; the formation of a task force is necessary; would like the Chair to direct the Superintendent to write a letter to the Town of Bristol stating we are aware the Reynolds building belongs to the Town, but please be aware our situation may change in the next several months.

- **Mr. Dugan:** In favor of asking the Town to extend the decommissioning date for three more months.

Mr. Estrella stated that he could take action only without objection; since there is objection, the matter is closed.

ADJOURNMENT – 8:10 PM

There being no further business to discuss, **Mr. Brule**, seconded by **Mr. Dugan**, motioned to adjourn at 8:10 PM. The vote was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Silva, Secretary

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